

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
) Case No. 4:08CR3162
Plaintiff,)
)
vs.) **TENTATIVE**
)
MARTHA ELLEN LOUNSBURY,) **FINDINGS**
)
)
Defendant.)

I am in receipt of the revised presentence investigation report and addendum in this case. Except for the defendant's objection, there are no objections or motions for departure or variance.

IT IS ORDERED that:

(1) The undersigned will consult and follow the Guidelines to the extent permitted and required by *United States v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220(2005) and subsequent cases. *See, e.g., Gall v. U.S.*, --- S.Ct. ----, 2007 WL 4292116 (2007). In this regard, the undersigned gives notice that, unless otherwise ordered, he will (a) give the advisory Guidelines such weight as they deserve within the context of each individual case and will filter the Guidelines' general advice through §3553(a)'s list of factors¹; (b) resolve all factual disputes relevant to sentencing by the greater weight of the evidence and without the aid of a jury; (c) impose upon the government the burden of proof on all Guideline-enhancements; (d) impose upon the defendant the burden of proof on all Guideline-mitigators; (e) depart from the advisory Guidelines, if appropriate, using pre-Booker departure theory; and (f) in cases where a departure using pre-Booker departure theory is not warranted, deviate or vary from the Guidelines when there is a principled reason which justifies a sentence different than

¹However, I will no longer give the Guidelines "substantial weight."

that called for by application of the advisory Guidelines.²

(2) The defendant's objection to the "vulnerable victim" adjustment (filing 37) is denied. First, the facts admitted by the defendant at the time she entered her guilty plea prove that the defendant held a "power of attorney" and was appointed a "health care representative" for her aunt who was then in a nursing home (filing 26 at 16.51 and following) and these facts are alone sufficient to support the enhancement. Nursing home residents who give up their legal and physical autonomy by granting powers of attorney and health care representative designations to a third party are by definition "unusually vulnerable due to age [or] physical or mental condition . . ." U.S.S.G. § 3A1.1(b)(1) and application note 2. Second, the probation officer investigated even further and found that the victim was in a nursing home suffering from dementia (PSR ¶¶ 18, 28), and the defendant has failed to provide the slightest reason why I should doubt the accuracy of that information. Under these circumstances, an evidentiary hearing would be a waste of time.

(3) Except to the extent (if at all) that I have sustained an objection or granted a motion or reserved an issue for later resolution in the preceding paragraph, the parties are herewith notified that my tentative findings are that the presentence report is correct in all respects.

(4) If **any** party wishes to challenge these tentative findings, said party shall, as soon as possible, but in any event at least five (5) business days before sentencing, file in the court file and serve upon opposing counsel and the court a motion challenging these tentative findings, supported by (a) such evidentiary materials as are required (giving due regard to the requirements of the local rules of practice respecting the submission of evidentiary materials), (b) a brief as to the law and (c) if an evidentiary hearing is requested, a statement describing why an evidentiary

²See note 1.

hearing is necessary and how long such a hearing would take.

(5) Absent submission of the information required by the preceding paragraph of this order, my tentative findings may become final and the presentence report may be adopted and relied upon by me without more.

(6) Unless otherwise ordered, any motion challenging these tentative findings shall be resolved at sentencing.

August 13, 2009.

BY THE COURT:

s/ Richard G. Kopf
United States District Judge